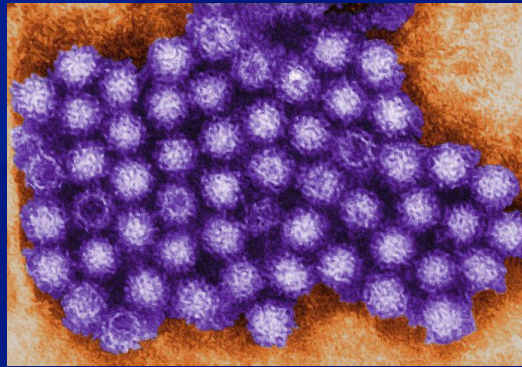


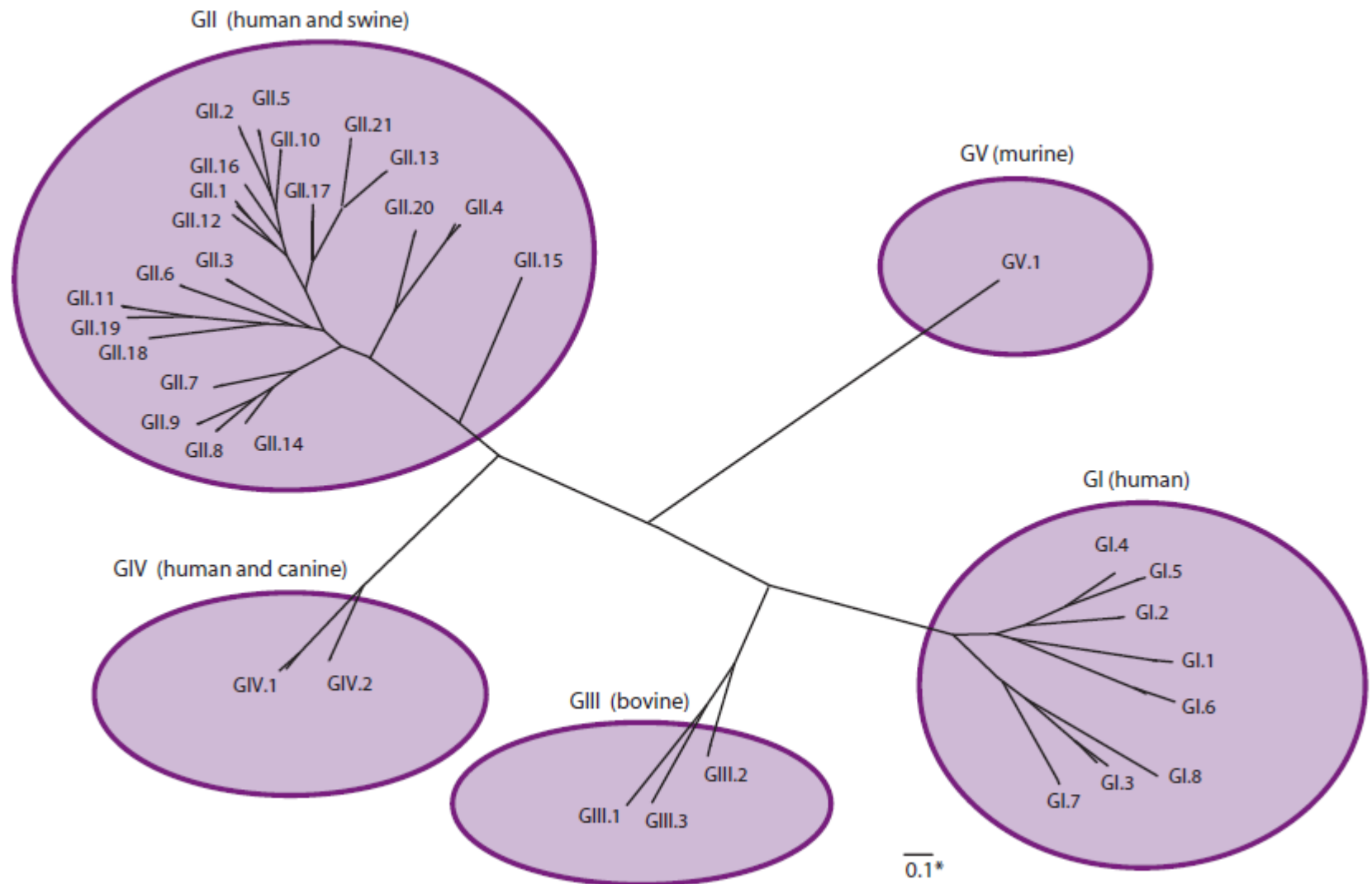
# Norovirus Epidemiology and Waterborne Disease



**Aron J. Hall, DVM, MSPH, DACVPM**  
**CDC Viral Gastroenteritis Team**  
**[ajhall@cdc.gov](mailto:ajhall@cdc.gov)**

WASH Webinar  
September 14, 2011

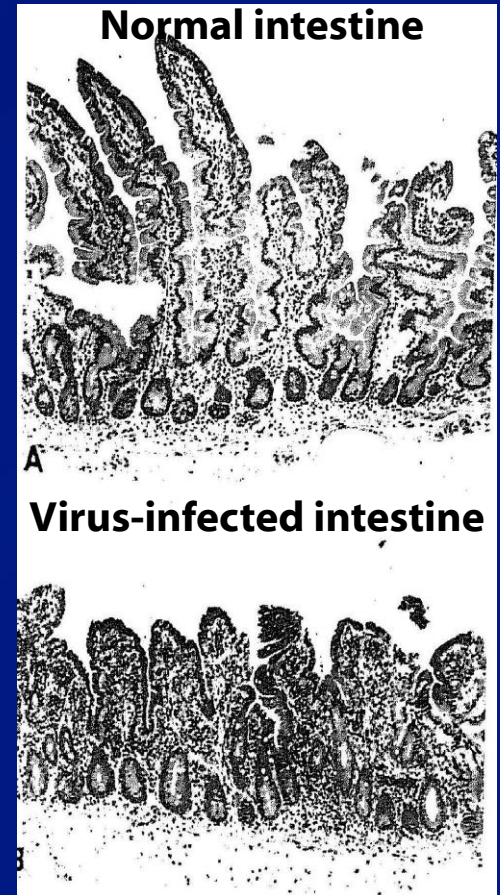
# Norovirus Classification



Hall 2011 MMWR

# Clinical Disease

- **Incubation period: 12-48 hours**
- **Acute-onset vomiting and/or diarrhea**
  - Watery, non-bloody stools
  - Abdominal cramps, nausea, low-grade fever
- **Most recover after 12-72 hours**
  - 10-12% seek medical attention; some require hospitalization and fluid therapy
  - More severe illness and death possible in elderly and those with other illnesses
- **30% of infections are asymptomatic**



**Widdowson 2005 EID**  
**Phillips 2010 Am J Epid**  
**de Wit 2001 Am J Epid**

# Norovirus Disease Burden

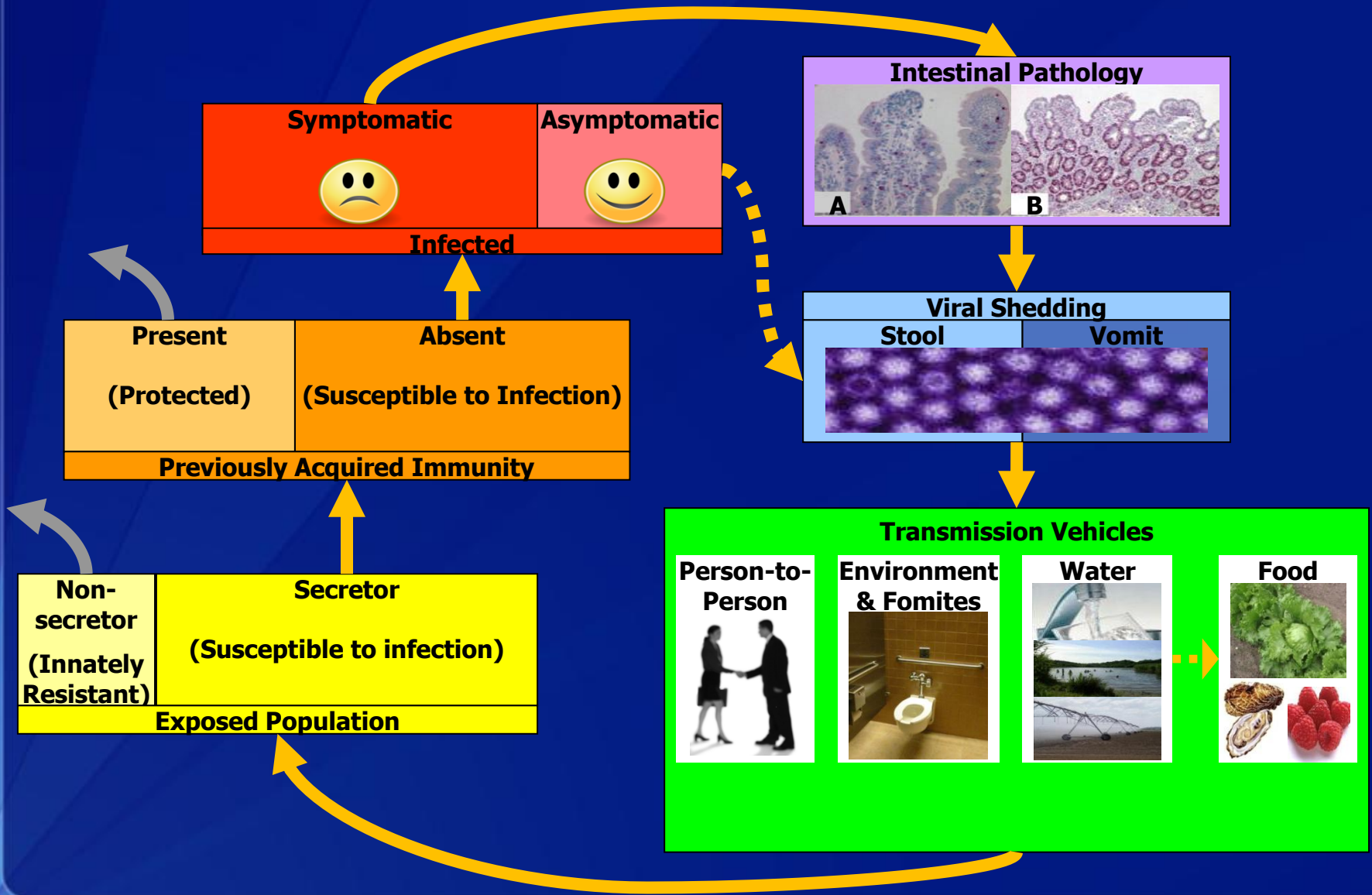
- **#1 cause of acute gastroenteritis (AGE) in U.S.**
  - Nearly 21 million cases annually
  - 1 in 14 Americans become ill each year
- **16% of all AGE in community and 12% of AGE among outpatients attributable to norovirus**
- **71,000 norovirus-associated hospitalizations annually in U.S.**
  - 18,500 (26%) in children aged <5 years
  - 28,600 (40%) in elderly aged ≥65 years
- **Causes 58% of all domestically-acquired foodborne illness from known agents**

Scallan 2011 EID  
Hall 2011 EID  
Lopman 2011 CID

# Transmission

- **Person to person**
  - Direct fecal-oral
  - Ingestion of aerosolized vomitus
  - Indirect via fomites or contaminated environment
- **Food**
  - Contamination by infected food handlers
  - Irrigation or growing waters (raspberries, oysters)
- **Recreational and Drinking Water**
  - Well contamination from septic tank
  - Chlorination system breakdown

# Norovirus Transmission Cycle





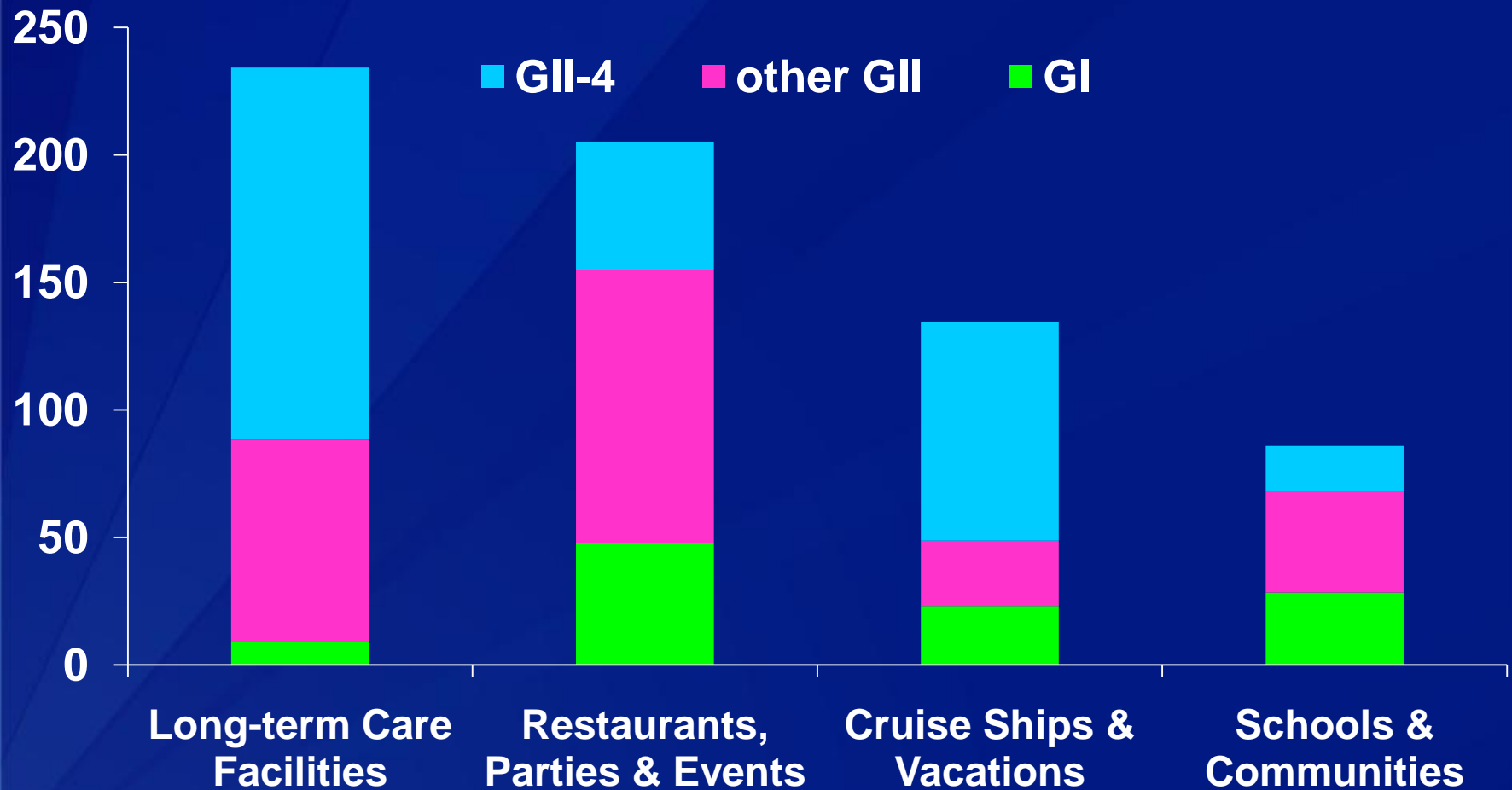
# Characteristics of AGE Outbreaks Reported to CDC by 30 States, Jan 2007-April 2010

Description	<u>All States</u> No. (%)	<u>State-Specific %</u> Median (Range)
<b>All AGE outbreaks (n=7,734)</b>		
Suspected norovirus outbreaks	5,737 (74)	75 (23–100)
<b>Suspected norovirus outbreaks</b>		
Laboratory-confirmed	2,866 (50)	58 (8–100)
Occurring in long-term care facilities*	3,532 (68)	62 (12–94)
Person-to-person transmission†	3,733 (79)	78 (28–100)

\*2 states excluded due to lack of reporting; 5,201 total suspected norovirus outbreaks reported by 28 states included

†1 states excluded due to lack of reporting; 4,742 total suspected norovirus outbreaks reported by 29 states included

# Setting of Norovirus Outbreaks Reported to CDC for Diagnostic Testing, 1994-2006



Zheng 2010 JCM

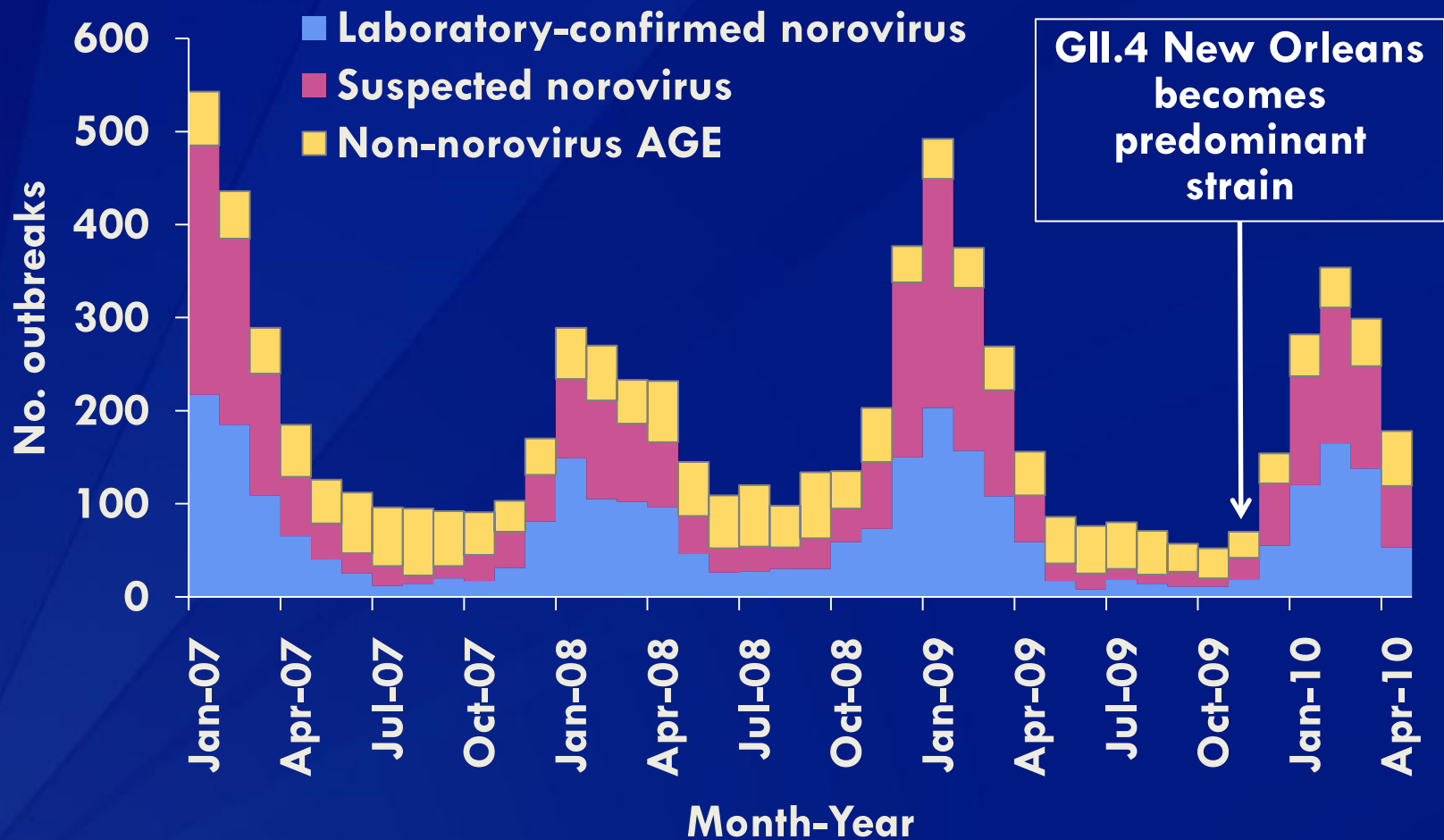


# Emergent GII.4 Norovirus Variants

Variant	Years of Circulation	Pandemic Season	Other Names
95/96-US	1995–2002	1995–1996	Grimsby
Farmington Hills	2002–2005	2002–2003	2002
Hunter	2003–2006	None	2004
Yerseke	2006–2008	2006–2007	Laurens, Nijmegen, 2006a
Den Haag	2006–present	2006–2007	Minerva, 2006b
New Orleans	2009–present	None*	

\*Based on data available as of September 2010, the New Orleans GII.4 variant has not been associated with an increased number of norovirus outbreaks in the U.S.

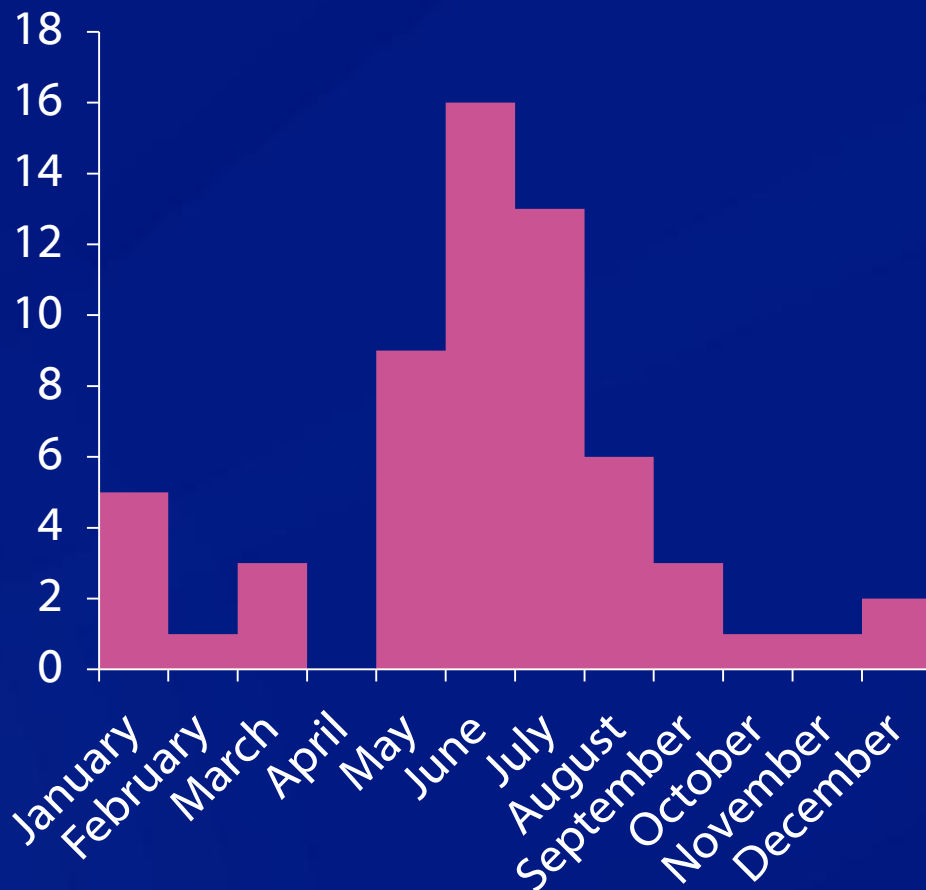
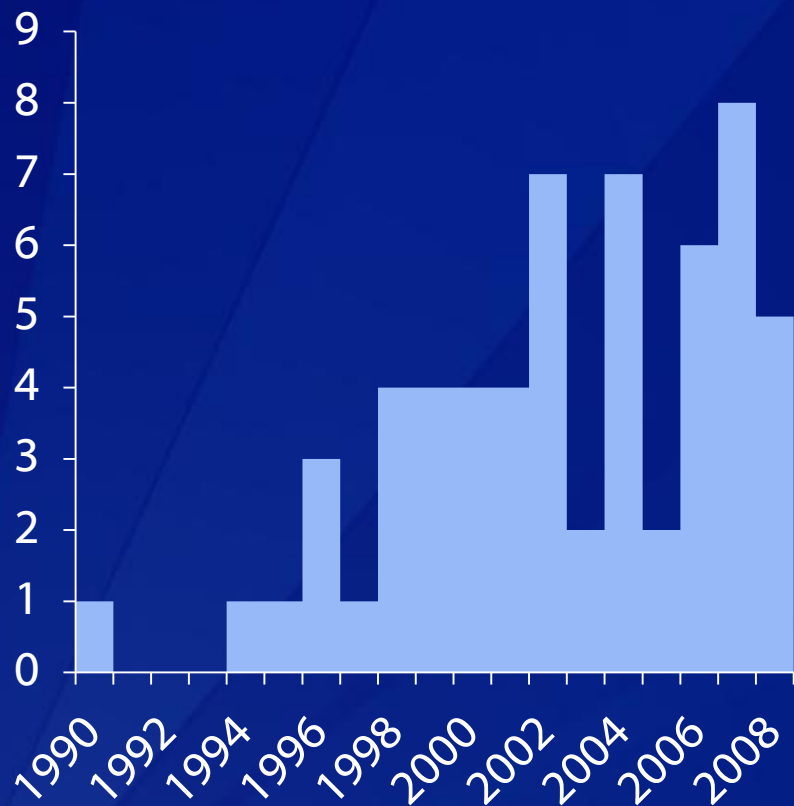
# Seasonality of AGE Outbreaks Reported to CDC by 30 States, Jan 2007-April 2010



# **Waterborne Norovirus Outbreaks Reported to CDC, 1990-2008**

- **60 (7%) of 896 waterborne disease outbreaks involved norovirus, resulting in 6162 illnesses**
  - **Recreational water outbreaks: 37 (62%)**
    - Median 23 illnesses/outbreak (range: 6-650)
    - 26 (70%) untreated, 11 (30%) treated
  - **Drinking water outbreaks: 22 (37%)**
    - Median 109 illness/outbreak (range: 32-1450)
    - 18 (82%) non-community, 4 (18%) community
  - **Outbreaks involving non-recreational water not intended for drinking: 1 (2%)**

# Waterborne Norovirus Outbreaks Reported to CDC, 1990-2008



# CDC Role During Outbreaks

- **Consultation, multi-state coordination, and assistance**

Type	Program	Contact	Phone	Email
Norovirus Epidemiology	Viral Gastroenteritis Team	Aron Hall	404-639-1869	ajhall@cdc.gov
Waterborne Epidemiology	Domestic WASH Epidemiology Team	Jonathan Yoder	404-718-4696	jey9@cdc.gov
Clinical specimens	National Calicivirus Laboratory	Nicole Gregoricus	404-639-1923	frv6@cdc.gov
Water samples	WASH Laboratory	Vincent Hill	404-718-4151	veh2@cdc.gov

- **National outbreak surveillance**
  - **NORS (epidemiology)**
  - **CaliciNet (laboratory)**

# National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS)

- **Comprehensive national surveillance system for all enteric disease outbreaks**
  - Web-based reporting by state and local health departments
  - Includes food, water, person-to-person, environmental, and animal transmission
- **Launched February 2009**



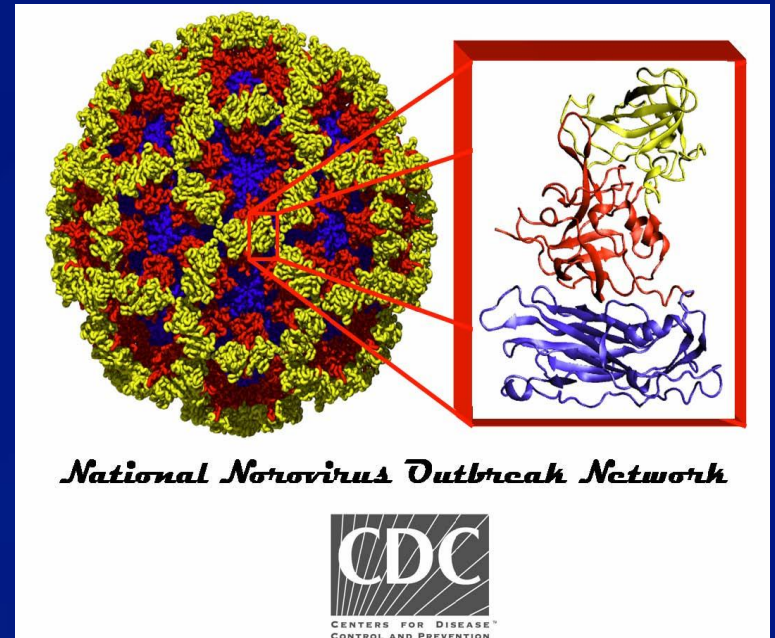


# Uses of NORS Data

- **Characterize the national burden of epidemic gastroenteritis, including norovirus outbreaks**
- **Monitor temporal trends in enteric disease outbreaks**
- **Identify priority settings and populations for interventions**
- **Characterize attribution of enteric disease outbreaks by:**
  - **Pathogen and sero-/geno-type**
  - **Modes of transmission (e.g., % waterborne)**
  - **Deficiencies, water sources, water types, etc.**

# CaliciNet

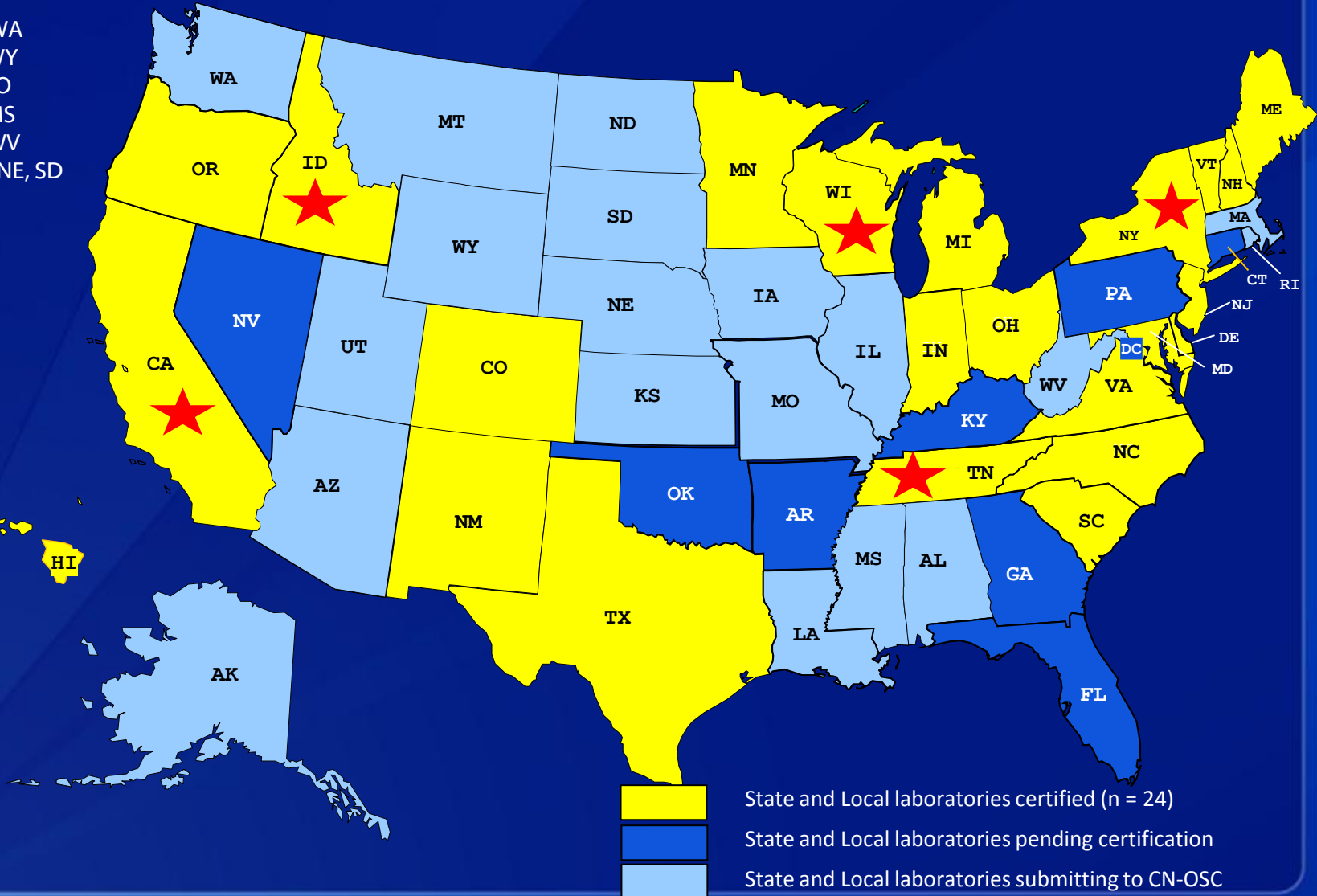
- Molecular subtyping network (like PulseNet)
- Data shared between public health labs and CDC
- Link outbreaks and identify common sources
- Identify emergent variants
- Implemented March 2009
- Currently 24 states certified



# States participating in CaliciNet (May 2011)

★ = Outbreak Support Centers (OSC)

CA: AZ, UT, WA  
ID: AK, MT, WY  
WI: IA, KS, MO  
TN: AL, LA, MS  
NY: MA, RI, VT  
CDC: IL, ND, NE, SD



# Prevention and Control

- **Rapid reporting, response, and investigation**
  - Identify mode of transmission and source of contamination
  - Collect appropriate specimens
- **Promote appropriate hand hygiene**
  - Wash with soap and water  $\geq 20$  seconds
  - Alcohol-based hand sanitizers?
- **Prompt and thorough disinfection**
  - Bleach solution for contaminated surfaces
  - Other EPA-approved disinfectants?
- **Manage and exclude ill persons**
  - $\geq 24$ -72 hrs after symptom resolution
  - Accommodating sick pay/leave policies for staff

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6003.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

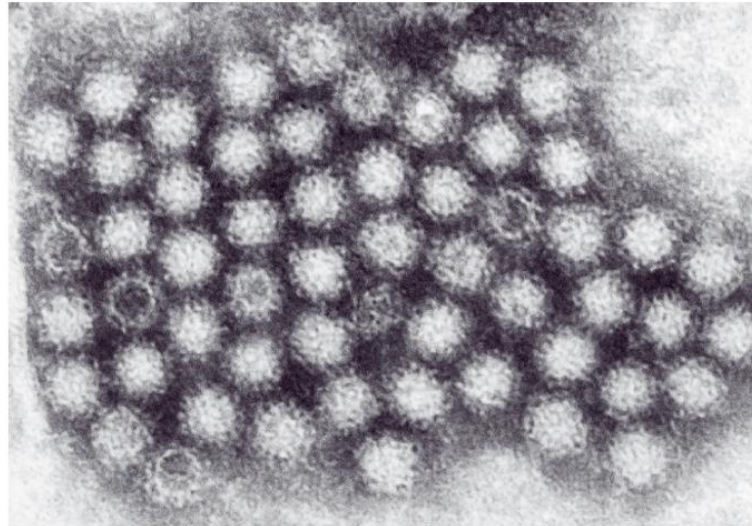
**MMWR**

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Recommendations and Reports / Vol. 60 / No. 3

March 4, 2011

## Updated Norovirus Outbreak Management and Disease Prevention Guidelines



Continuing Education Examination available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted.html>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# Additional Norovirus Information at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Norovirus Illness: Key Facts



### Norovirus—the stomach bug

- Norovirus is a highly contagious illness. It is often called by other names, such as stomach bug or gastroenteritis.
- Norovirus infection causes acute gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines); the most common symptom is diarrhea.
- Anyone can get norovirus, and they can get it more than once in their lifetime.
- Norovirus is the most common cause of gastroenteritis in the United States.

### Norovirus illness can be severe

- Norovirus can make people feel extremely ill, with symptoms lasting for a day or two.
- Most people get better within 1 to 2 days.
- Dehydration can be a problem among the very young, the elderly, and people with chronic health conditions.

## Norovirus



## Surveillance & Disease Burden

### Norovirus is a common illness in the United States

- CDC estimates that over 20 million cases of acute gastroenteritis every year are due to norovirus.
- Over half of all foodborne disease outbreaks are caused by noroviruses. Foods commonly involved in outbreaks include leafy greens and raw shellfish; however, any food item served raw or handled after being cooked can become contaminated with norovirus.

### Norovirus outbreaks occur in diverse places

- Of 660 outbreaks with specimens confirmed by CDC for viral testing between 1994 and 2006,
  - 36% were from long-term care facilities (e.g., nursing homes),
  - 31% were from restaurants, parties, and events,

## Norovirus

## Facts for Food Handlers

### Norovirus—the “stomach bug”

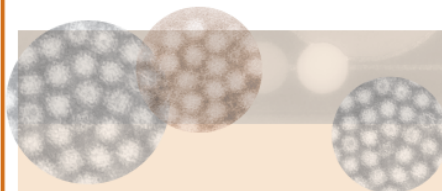
Infection with norovirus causes gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines), which most commonly results in diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach cramping. Norovirus illness is sometimes referred to as “stomach flu,” which is a respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus.

You can be infected with norovirus more than once in your life. That means there are many different types of noroviruses, and being infected with one type does not always protect against infection from another type. In addition, immunity from natural infection is thought to last for only a year or less.

### Food handlers can spread norovirus

## Norovirus in Healthcare Facilities Fact Sheet

Released December 21, 2006



### General Information

#### Virology

Noroviruses (genus *Norovirus*, family *Caliciviridae*) are a group of related, single-stranded RNA, non-enveloped viruses that cause acute gastroenteritis in humans. Norovirus was recently approved as the official genus name for the group of viruses provisionally described as “Norwalk-like viruses” (NLV). Currently, human noroviruses belong to one of three norovirus genogroups (GI, GII, or GIV), each of which is further divided into >25 genetic clusters.

#### Diagnosis of norovirus infection

Diagnosis of norovirus infection relies on the detection of viral RNA in the stools of affected persons, by use of reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assays. This technology is available at CDC and most state public health laboratories and should be considered in the event of outbreaks of gastroenteritis in healthcare facilities. Identification of the virus can be best made from stool specimens taken within 48 to 72 hours after onset of symptoms, although good results can be obtained by using RTPCR on samples taken as long as 7 days after symptom onset. Other methods of diagnosis, usually only available in research settings, include electron microscopy and serologic assays for a rise in titer in paired sera collected at least three weeks apart. Commercial enzyme-linked immunoassays are available but are of relatively low sensitivity, so their use is limited to diagnosis of the etiology of outbreaks. Because of the limited availability of timely and routine laboratory diagnostic methods, a clinical diagnosis of norovirus infection is often used, especially when other agents of gastroenteritis have been ruled out.



# Acknowledgments

- **NCIRD / Division of Viral Diseases**
  - **Viral Gastroenteritis Team**
    - Ben Lopman
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    - GeunWoo Park
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